



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

For Your Information...

Electronic Recycling Options for Households

Unwanted electronics from households – such as computers, televisions and cell phones – should be managed responsibly.

In South Carolina, residents in Barnwell, Charleston, Hampton and York counties can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Other local programs may hold single-day collection events throughout the year. For more information, contact your local recycling coordinator or solid waste director. For assistance in contacting your local program, call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/counties.html.

Residents also are encouraged to take advantage of the growing number of recycling options for household electronics – most of which are available through retail stores and/or computer manufacturers. Some of the programs are free while others charge a fee. Look for the best deal available.

This information is not to be considered an endorsement of any retail outlet or recycling program. This information should not be considered complete or comprehensive. The programs and information outlined change frequently. For the most up-to-date information, contact the program.

In South Carolina, businesses must follow local, state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of computers, monitors, televisions and other electronic equipment. For more information, see "Cathode Ray Tubes and Electronics Management" technical assistance sheet at www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html.

Retail Recycling Programs for Cell Phones and Rechargeable Batteries

Some retail stores in South Carolina provide programs that are convenient for consumers who want to recycle various unwanted electronics, particularly cell phones and rechargeable batteries.

- **Best Buy** provides free and easy recycling of any brand of cell phone, printer ink cartridge and rechargeable battery at any of their 600-plus retail locations nationwide. Look for the special display in the front entrance. For more information visit www.bestbuy.com.
- Through the **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's (RBRC) Call2Recycle™** program, retailers including Alltel, Batteries Plus, Circuit City, Home Depot, Lowe's, Radio Shack, Sears, Target, Wal-Mart and other stores that sell batteries offer drop-offs for all brands of rechargeable batteries and unwanted cell phones and accessories. Visit www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/dropoff/index.php or call **1-877-2-RECYCLE** to find participating

locations. Usable phones are refurbished for donation and the rest are recycled with a portion of the proceeds given to charity.

- **Sprint's Project Connect** offers free drop-off of all brands of wireless phones at Sprint Stores and participating Easter Seals locations nationwide. Donations are either recycled or resold, with a portion of the net proceeds benefiting Easter Seals and the National Organization on Disability (NOD). For more information or a location near you visit www.sprintstorelocator.com or www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer.
- **Staples** office supply stores offer free drop-off recycling services for cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), pagers and rechargeable batteries. Visit www.staples.com for more information. The chain has partnered with CollectiveGood (www.collectivegood.com/news.asp) to refurbish usable devices and recycle those that are broken.
- Through the **Verizon Wireless HopeLinesm Phone Recycling Program**, consumers get free drop-off recycling services for used cell phones at retail store locations. For more information visit www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/storelocator/index.jsp. With the funds raised from the sale of the refurbished phones, Verizon Wireless will purchase wireless phones and donate airtime to victims of domestic violence through human services and law enforcement agencies.
- Wireless phones are collected to benefit victims of domestic violence through the **Donate A Phone: Call to Protect®** program. The phones enable victims to call for assistance when faced with an emergency situation. Non-working phones are sold for recycling. For more information visit www.wirelessfoundation.org/CalltoProtect.

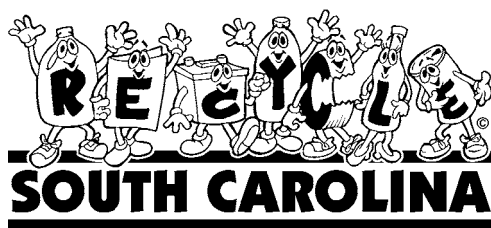
Manufacturer Recycling Programs for Electronics

Several major manufacturers of computers and electronics are offering consumers recycling and reuse alternatives for their products. This is most common for old computers and computer peripherals (monitors, keyboards, mice, etc.). The offers have significant differences in cost and arrangements — be sure you "read the fine print" and confirm that your equipment is accepted by the company.

- **Dell Recycling** – Dell Recycling offers electronics recycling including shipping and pickup, for \$15 per 50-pound box. Dell accepts computer equipment and peripherals from any manufacturer. Recycling services are prepaid through the Dell Web site. They will send you an e-mail explaining

when your equipment will be picked up. You box up your unwanted equipment (weighing 50 pounds or less) securely in a cardboard box marked "Dell Recycling." For more information visit www.dell4me.com/recycling.

- **Epson Recycle Program** – Epson offers recycling for its products including printers, scanners and projectors. A fee of \$10 per item covers shipping and recycling, and you get a \$5 credit at their online store. Recycling services are prepaid through the Epson Web site, and they send you a UPS label. You box up your item and bring it to a UPS drop site in your area. Visit www.epson.com/recycle for more information.
- **Gateway Recycle Program** – The Gateway Recycle Program awards consumers up to \$50 in rebates when you purchase a Gateway computer and recycle or donate your old computer. You have to find a charity or recycler that will take your computer and verify the donation to Gateway. Rebate totals are \$50 for portables and all-in-one computers, \$25 for a desktop unit and \$25 for a desktop display monitor. Rebate totals per form cannot exceed \$50 and only one rebate is allowed per computer purchased. For more information visit www.gateway.com/about/corp_responsibility/env_options.shtml or call 1-800-GATEWAY.
- **GreenDisk** – GreenDisk can manage all of your unwanted electronics from computer to compact disks. GreenDisk will destroy your old data (to military standards), salvage reusable components and recycle the rest. Services can be selected online and range from \$19-\$35. GreenDisk also offers recycled content products including compact disks, diskettes and jewel cases. For more information, visit www.greendisk.com or call 1-800-305-3475.
- **Hewlett Packard: Planet Partners Recycling Program** – Hewlett Packard (HP) offers product end-of-life return programs for computer hardware and peripherals from HP and other manufacturers. After unwanted hardware is evaluated, it is either donated to charity or recycled by HP. Consumers are charged for each item sent in, with fees ranging from \$13-\$34 per item. HP's automated, on-line service calculates your final cost, payable by credit card. Any brand of equipment is accepted. Use the Web-based order form to identify what you need to recycle and they will calculate a total cost including shipping. The site offers instructions for packing and pickup service. For more information visit www.hp.com/go/recycle.
- **IBM's PC Recycling Service** – Through the IBM PC Recycling Service, consumers can recycle any manufacturer's computers including system units, monitors, printers and optional attachments for \$29.99, which includes shipping. IBM will either recycle the equipment or refurbish the system and arrange for its donation to Gifts in Kind International. If the computer meets the criteria for donation, the donor will receive a receipt for potential deduction on their annual federal tax return up to the amount allowed by law. For more information visit www.ibm.com/ibm/environment/products/pcservice.shtml or call 1-888-746-7226.
- **Lexmark Recycles** – Lexmark has free programs for returning consumables and equipment for recycling at end of life. They will accept Lexmark-brand printers for free recycling, but the consumer has to make the arrangements and pay for the shipping. Spent Lexmark toner cartridges can be returned using free, postage-paid envelopes through the Cartridge Collection Program. For more information visit www.lexmark.com/recycle or call 859-232-3022.
- **MPC Computers** – This program accepts all brands of computer equipment. Recycling is available on a per-unit basis. Desktop computers and monitors are collected separately, with a \$35 charge for each (less than 75 pounds.) Customers call the toll-free number and prepay by credit card. You box up your equipment, use the provided UPS label and take it to a UPS shipping center. For more information, visit www.buympc.com/services/shared/recycle.html or call 1-888-224-4247 (and press 0 for operator).
- **Sony Electronics** – Sony bears the costs of recycling Sony products that are collected through recycling events and special collection stations. For more information visit www.sony.com/recycle.
- **United Recycling Industries** – URI's Electronic Take-Back Program will accept obsolete computers and peripherals from any manufacturer for recycling or reuse. Call the toll-free number or use the online form to order a pre-paid shipping label (\$30). Put your computer hardware (PCs, monitors, printers, other external units) into a box, attach the pre-paid label, and take it to a UPS shipping site. Working equipment will be donated when possible. Recycling includes erasing computer hard drives and dismantling of equipment to recover glass, circuit boards, plastics and components. Call 1-800-270-8220 or visit www.unitedrecycling.com/site.html for more information.



Office of Solid Waste
Reduction & Recycling
1-800-768-7348 ● www.scdhec.gov/recycle

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call 1-800-768-7348 or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.gov/recycle. Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.